

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2011

Call to Order. The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

Roll Call. The following Commission Members were present: Anita Dodd, Chair; Ann Best-Rolls, Vice Chair, arrived at 3:37 PM; Cessie Howell, Secretary; Jane Conner and Barbara Kirby. Frank White was absent.

Also in attendance were Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning & Zoning and Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one from the public was present.

Organize Commission. Barbara Kirby nominated, seconded by Cessie Howell, Anita Dodd for Chairperson in 2011.

The vote on the nomination for Anita Dodd was:

Yea:	(4)	Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(2)	Best-Rolls, White

Nomination of the Vice Chairperson was delayed for the arrival of Ann Best-Rolls to the meeting.

Anita Dodd nominated, seconded by Cessie Howell, Barbara Kirby for Secretary in 2011.

The vote on the nomination for Barbara Kirby was:

Yea:	(4)	Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(2)	Best-Rolls, White

Approval of Minutes. Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to approve the December 2, 2010 Commission meeting minutes with minor corrections.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea:	(4)	Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(2)	Best-Rolls, White

Masters Mill & The Steven's House. Jane Conner is continuing to gather information regarding the structures. Cessie Howell said she spoke with Supervisor Cord Sterling regarding the structures. Kathy Baker said recently there has been correspondence from the County Administrator to set up a meeting. She said a bank in North Carolina said it sold the property a couple of years ago. The bank has not been able to locate the paper work. The property in question was a foreclosure and does not have a structure on the premises. Anita Dodd requested a representative from the Historical Commission be present at the meeting if possible.

Proposed Ordinance O06-47 Regarding Archeological Surveys. Anita Dodd said Ann Best-Rolls has spoken with Supervisor Harry Crisp regarding the ordinance. She said now that the comp plan is approved he will have a little more time to address the subject. She said the comp plan suggests the County create such ordinances. Barbara Kirby said she spoke with Supervisor Crisp regarding her

concern about Widdewater possibly being included in the UDA (Urban District Areas). Kathy Baker said now that the comp plan has been approved the Planning Commission has 90 days to set up the implementation, how it will be organized and prioritized. She told Commission members they may consider contacting their Planning Commission representatives to indicate what their concerns are regarding historic resources. She said they will have short-term, mid-term and long-term goals over the next five years on where to start with the implementation following through with the recommendations of the newly adopted comp plan.

Revision of the Historic Preservation Award Process. Jane Conner said she wrote a draft correspondence to be sent out to people/organizations for nominations for the award. She read the letter aloud and asked the Commission for input. Discussion ensued. Kathy Baker said the Commission may want to approach the Fredericksburg Area Builders Association (FABA) for nominations. Jane Conner said she would e-mail the letter to Commission members for their suggestions. Kathy Baker asked about someone not being able to attend the nomination meeting but wanted to submit a name. Anita Dodd said it should be mentioned in the letter that the nomination can be turned in prior to the meeting for review at the meeting. The Commission hoped to have the correspondence modified and ready for delivery after its February meeting. The Commission established that the nomination committee would meet on March 24th at 7:00 PM.

Continuation of Organizing Commission. Barbara Kirby nominated, seconded by Jane Conner, Ann Best-Rolls for Vice Chairperson in 2011.

The vote on the nomination for Ann Best-Rolls was:

Yea:	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	White

Report by Commission Chairperson. Anita Dodd said the Cavin property in the Widdewater area is not currently being developed but a developer is developing the property next to it and wants to dump disturbed land from the property being developed onto the Cavin property. The dirt will not be dumped on the cemetery but the developer wants to dump it on the site where a house was located. Anita Dodd wrote a letter in 2008 requesting a Phase I study of the property in question. The Phase I study was not performed. Anita Dodd wants to write another letter requesting the study again, now that the project is again active. The cemetery is not currently on the County's cemetery roster. There may be a tavern site in the area as well.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Cessie Howell to submit a letter to Andy Garrett, the developer, requesting a Phase I study of the property that the dirt is to be dumped on.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea:	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	White

Anita Dodd said she received information from the Environmental Division of VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) referencing the Aquia Creek Bridge on US-1 just before the Crucifix. The bridge will be larger and the road will be widened. VDOT requested a response from the Commission within 30 days. The old bridge will be removed and a new bridge will be built. Anita Dodd said the bridge has been replaced before. She wants to find out if there are any historic photos of any of the older bridges.

Ann Best-Rolls motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to authorize Anita Dodd to submit a letter to the Environmental Division of VDOT requesting a copy of any photos of any of the older versions of the Aquia Creek bridge.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea:	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	White

Amber Oaks Subdivision - Anita Dodd said Mike Lott, Environmental Planner, Planning & Zoning discovered a very old brick chimney while walking a property. The property is a lot that may or may not be part of the Amber Oaks Subdivision. The Commission is requesting a Phase I study for potential Native American Indian artifacts.

Barbara Kirby motioned seconded by Cessie Howell to authorize Anita Dodd to submit a letter requesting a Phase I study of the lot containing the chimney on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea:	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	White

Barbara Kirby said there may be additional cultural resources near the chimney, for example a cemetery or out-buildings. She and Anita Dodd said the chimney appears to be sandstone based.

Falmouth Intersection. Anita Dodd inquired with the Commission regarding attending a VDOT public meeting held that evening, locally, from 4 PM - 7 PM. Commission members received hard copies of an Environmental Assessment of the Falmouth Intersection by VDOT and the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration). She said the current plan involves removing the four buildings on the four corners. She said the building on the northwest corner still has integrity and is an old building and should not be removed. She said she would want to mitigate that building. She said there are 1930s pictures of the Glover Building from Francis Benjamin Johnson. She wants to find out how much land will be left when the car dealership is removed, perhaps the Sears houses can be relocated on the property. She said the stone fence and the landscaping will be removed from Irma Clifton's house. The Dunbar Kitchen building will not be removed. Anita Dodd said it would be best if traffic was re-routed further north to the cloverleaf at Stafford High School that was over-built to begin with. Years ago, when they were planning the east-west connector it would have been easier, now houses have been built there. She said most historical places take traffic out of its community, the proposed Falmouth Intersection brings traffic into the community. They will most likely have to build another bridge later over the Rappahannock River by Celebrate VA. Commission members agreed there is no way to change the plan to be implemented, the only recourse is mitigation and to deal with the cultural resources that are going to be impacted and do right by those resources. The Commission agreed to evaluate how much space is left after the removal of the car dealership and possibly request moving the Sears houses to that location. Anita Dodd said it's important to let the State know the Commission's concerns now. Kathy Baker said Helen Ross of VDOT is holding a Stakeholders Meeting (Consulting Party's Meeting), Thursday, February 3, 2011, 10:00 AM, County Conference Room ABC, which is the same day as the Commission's next meeting. Anita Dodd said more information is still needed, so far the concerns are the Glover's House, the three Sears houses on Butler Road, how much open space will be available, and there is no mention of taking the Irma Clifton House stone wall. Taking a look at the Stafford High School cloverleaf as a possibility is not included in the report as well.

Discussion ensued.

It was established the Commission's comments need to be submitted to VDOT by February 7th. Anita Dodd said she will draft a letter to VDOT and the Commission can discuss it at its February 3rd meeting. Kathy Baker said if Commission members have additional comments for the letter they can e-mail them to Anita Dodd.

Cessie Howell motioned seconded by Barbara Kirby to authorize Anita Dodd to submit a letter to the Historical Division of VDOT containing suggestions and requests from the Historical Commission regarding the proposed Falmouth Intersection.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea:	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	White

Reports by Commission Members. Ann Best-Rolls mentioned the new 7-11 on US-17. She mentioned a large landscaped area on the premises that is appealing and currently contains a Falmouth sign. She spoke with Al Conner, John Hennessey and M.C. Moncure regarding installing additional signage, they were all supportive. M.C. Moncure said she would speak with the owner of the property regarding more interpretive signage. The Commission said the Planning Commission should be commended for having the 7-11 building's loading area face away from US-17.

Adjournment. At 4:35 PM the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd, Chairperson

Barbara Kirby, Secretary
